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LOCAL BRANCHES *

RELATION OF LOCAL BRANCHES TO COMMITTEES

The following interesting suggestion comes to the Secretary from the Local Branch at the University of Virginia:

At our meeting on Tuesday evening, I was requested to write to you and ask if it will be possible for the secretaries of the various committees to keep the local branches informed from time to time of the nature and progress of the committee work. This matter came up in connection with the question of how our local branch could best proceed to discuss and learn about the matters of interest to the general society as indicated by the active committees. If we want to discuss the subject occupying any committee, we should otherwise find it hard to get a basis for discussion. For example, we have very little idea of the scope of work for the Committee upon Place and Functions of Faculties.

The suggestion is discussed in further detail by a member of the Council at the same institution as follows:

It seems to me that local branches can contribute quite a little to this committee work by sending in facts about local conditions or by giving some new aspect of the subject the committee is considering, or in other ways. This can be done more efficiently, however, if there is some coördination between the committees and the branches.

I would suggest that, apart from the formal publications in the BULLETIN, as each committee plans its work, it might send a brief mimeographed statement of the questions under consideration to each local branch with the request for any assistance that the branch as a whole or individual members may be able to give. Response would doubtless be most readily and effectively obtained by a definite questionnaire from the committee with a final request for suggestions as to facts, problems, points of view, considerations, etc., which any branch or individual members may be able to make to the problem included in the scope of the committee work. The BULLETIN could supply the general statement of the work of the committee. The questionnaires, which need not exceed one or two pages of mimeographed matter, should not be expensive and it seems to me that something of this sort is well worth trying in order to secure the widest possible coöperation of the membership at large in the work of the Association.

* See also page 24.